

Haywood County “Toeprints”

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Vol. #7 Issue #12 (Subject: Walk-thru Metal Detector in Historic Court House.)

www.haywoodtp.net

What’s Happening?

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform Haywood County Taxpayers of what transpires at the bi-monthly County Commission Meetings. This newsletter will be written from the perspective of a casual observer, myself. Any opinions expressed will be mine.

Kevin Ensley running for County Commissioner.

Here is a hypothetical question - Would **Kevin Ensley**, and his wife **Alice**, sacrifice the health and well-being of their daughter to further his political career as a County Commissioner?

Walk-thru Metal Detector in Historic Court House.



This photo was taken on 6/22/2016, during the installation phase of this metal detector in the public entrance to the Historic Court House. The Sheriff’s Deputy present declined to be a part of this photo.

Why is this metal detector here?



(Mark Swanger, Photo from the Mountaineer)

Mark Swanger, ex-FBI guy and soon to be ex-County Commissioner, has had a thorn up his [expletive deleted] for months. This installation did not simply happen due to the passage of the recent Land Use or Open Carry/Concealed Weapon ordinances. It is a parting shot from **Swanger** as part of his scorched-earth policy to make life miserable for the Taxpayers of Haywood County.

I first became aware of this plan months ago during a scheduled meeting with Haywood County Greg Christopher. Plans were being developed to purchase a second metal detector, a new one for the Justice Center, and bring the old one over to the Court House. The Sheriff, as I recall, was not enthusiastic about this plan. After all, Taxpayers have to go into the Historic Court House to transact normal business. Why subject them to the hassle of a search?

The new credenza with the nice simulated granite top then replaced the old historic safe that had been there forever several weeks ago. This was to be manned by a permanent Sheriff's Deputy, on a rotating schedule as the detector in the Justice Center.

Commissioner reasoning for this metal detector.

The Fourth Amendment (Amendment IV) to the United States Constitution prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures and requires any warrant to be judicially sanctioned and supported by probable cause.

Swanger and **Ira Dove** (Swanger's puppet County Manager) explained during the county commission meeting where they pencil whipped the Land Use Ordinance and the Concealed Carry and Open Carry Ordinance, that in order to be able to claim they could enforce no concealed weapons in the Historic Court House, they claimed it was based on some North Carolina General Statute that said weapons were not allowed in courtrooms. They claimed that the remodeled courtroom in the Historic Courthouse was still a courtroom.

Bull [expletive deleted]!

I recently attended a GOP District 11 meeting in Marion. They had a similar old building that had been renovated, and we had the meeting in the old courtroom. The courtroom was a fully functioning courtroom, with separate desks for D/A's and Defendants, recorders, the whole thing. I call that a courtroom. Our courtroom has a large structure built solely for the purpose of our county commissioners to sit at during county commission meetings. There has never been a court proceeding in that room since it was remodeled, and I don't believe there ever will be. Their whole premise was bogus.

Is this Metal Detector supposed to make us safer?

Let's first examine what Sheriff's Deputies are looking for. There is a memo circulated in the Sheriff's Office about what is and is not admissible for Taxpayers to enter with to do business in the Historic Court House. I have not seen the memo in writing, but in discussing what is admissible and not admissible with the Sheriff and multiple Deputies, I came up with the following:

Not Admissible:

- Long Knives,
- Pistols (and/or rifles).

Admissible:

- Practically everything else.

Here is a photo of some typical implements that I pulled from my kitchen drawer...



These items include knives that fold, box cutters, scissors, i.e. anything you would normally carry with you to conduct your normal business or personal day. I would have included a monkey wrench, but didn't have room in the photo. Who know's, you might run into **Dale Burris**, and he may need help one day fixing a toilet in the Historic Court House, and you might be able to lend assistance.

Do you feel safer?

Threshold Detection Levels.

It turns out the detection threshold levels are set differently between the metal detector in the Justice Center and the Historic Courthouse. Sensitivity at the Justice Center is very high, and very low at the Historic Court House. Why? Because any little thing might be considered a weapon. No problem in the Historic Court House, where Deputies are only looking for long knives and guns.

What a joke. How much more of a laughing stock can Haywood County be?

Selective Enforcement.

Only gullible Haywood County Taxpayers are required to pass through this metal detector. There is an employee entrance on a lower floor that is not manned by Sheriff's Deputies nor has a metal detector. Who is to say a county employee like **David Francis** or **Randy Siske** can't come in with a bunch of their friends?

So how does that make you feel, especially females (or transgenders) with purses that have to be opened up and searched. This goes back to the 4th Amendment - The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures and requires any warrant to be judicially sanctioned and supported by probable cause.

This is a lawsuit ready to explode.

Why?

Because **Mark Swanger** had a thorn stuck up his [expletive deleted].

Sheriff's Deputies, by the way, are at the brunt of taking a lot of complaints about this. Not their fault.

Swanger Countdown Clock.

The following is **Swanger's** remaining time as County Commissioner until a winner in November's election will be sworn in:

19 weeks, or
133 days, or
3,192 hours, or
191,520 minutes, or
11,491,200 seconds.

Legend: If any name is in **bold**, it can't be a good thing.

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Si vis pacem, para bellum